Kiyotaka YASUDA et al.

R E M A R K S

The above changes correct typographical errors in the specification and place this national phase application in the same condition as it was during the international phase, with the multiple dependencies in the claims being removed.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at line 27 of page 2 has been amended as follows:

As a result of extensive studies, the present inventors have found that the above object is accomplished by a hydrogen storage material of AB_5 structure having a specific ~~stoichiometric~~nonstoichiometric composition (B site rich), particularly a composition having $4.1<Ni\leq 4.3$ and $0.4<Mn\leq 0.6$, and the c-axis of which is in a given range. They have also found that such a hydrogen storage material is obtainable with the above-described specific composition when a casting temperature and heat treating conditions satisfy a given relationship.

Paragraph beginning at line 6 page 7 has been amended as follows:

Raw materials of a hydrogen storage material were weighed to make the alloying composition shown in Table 1 and mixed up. The mixture was put in a crucible, and the crucible was set in a high frequency melting furnace. After evacuating to a degree of vacuum of 10^{-4} to 10^{-5} Torr, the mixture was heat melted in an argon gas atmosphere and cast into a copper casting mold of water cooling type at 1350°C (pouring tempera-

ture: 1250°C) to obtain an alloy. The resulting alloy was heat treated in an argon atmosphere under the conditions shown in Table 2 to obtain a hydrogen storage material. Reference Example 1 shows the characteristics of a conventional alloy having a Co content of 10 wt%, and Reference Examples ~~1-2~~2-1 and ~~1-3~~2-2 show the characteristics of conventional alloys having a Co content of 5 wt%.

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (amended) The hydrogen storage material according to claim ~~1 or 2~~, wherein said lattice length on the c-axis is from 406.6 to 407.1 pm.

4. (amended) The hydrogen storage material according to claim ~~1 or 2~~, wherein (a+b+c+d) or (a+b+c+d+e) is 5.2 or greater and smaller than 5.3, and said lattice length on the c-axis is 406.2 or greater and smaller than 406.8 pm.

5. (amended) The hydrogen storage material according to claim ~~1 or 2~~, wherein (a+b+c+d) or (a+b+c+d+e) is from 5.3 to 5.45, and said lattice length on the c-axis is from 406.8 to 407.3 pm.